



January 24, 2017

KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-17-21

SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Fiscal Year 2017 High Tunnel System Initiative

Purpose: To provide guidance for administering the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) High Tunnel System Initiative (HTSI)

Expiration Date: September 30, 2017

Background

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner through the HTSI. The initiative has the potential to assist producers in addressing a resource concern by improving plant quality, improving soil quality, and reducing nutrient and pesticide transport.

The seasonal high tunnel practice is gaining recognition in many populated or urbanized areas. NRCS must consider and support all producers who submit an application regardless of where their operation is located. It is important to note that general program eligibility is not limited based on zoning. There is a common misconception that areas zoned as “urban” or “residential” (or other similar zoning types) are not eligible based on the zoning classification.

However, while the applicant and land may meet program eligibility requirements, zoning or other local regulations may restrict a participant from installing certain conservation practices (CPs). Participants who carry out CPs are responsible for obtaining the authorities, rights, easements, permits, or other approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the CPs in adherence with the applicable laws and regulations.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S

Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway Boulevard
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

Phone: 785-823-4500
FAX: 855-533-5070
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

Helping People Help the Land
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Application evaluation cutoff period was announced under Bulletin KS300-16-40–Fiscal Year 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Cutoff Date. Field Offices (FOs) will accept applications on a continuous basis. Applications received after the announced application cutoff period will be considered during the next cutoff period. All eligible applications will be ranked in the Programs Contracts System (ProTracts) Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool (AERT).

Eligible Land Uses, Resource Concerns, and CPs

The eligible land uses, resource concerns, and conservation practices are available in Attachment 1.

ProTracts Ranking Tool

The ProTracts fund code for the HTSI is “FY17 High Tunnel System.” The ProTracts cost is “KScountynameEQIP2017-01-EQIP.” The Toolkit cost list is “KS17_EQIP”.

National ranking questions are consistent for all EQIP applications; however, only questions 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 7b, and 9a apply to the NSHTI. All other national questions shall be answered “No.” Refer to Bulletin KS300-17-8–Fiscal Year 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Ranking Process–National Priorities for additional guidance on answering national questions.

A copy of the state and local ranking questions are provided in Attachment 2.

Contact: Please forward questions through established channels to Joel A. Willhoft, Resource Conservationist, at (785) 624-3127 or email joel.willhoft@ks.usda.gov.

(signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

Attachments